

NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Nocton Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton on Tuesday, 13 September, 2016 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Ian Goldsworthy (Chair)

Cllr Neil Faulkner
Cllr Graham Jones
Cllr Michael Kaye

Cllr Elisabeth Murray
Cllr MaryAnn Williams

In Attendance: Cllr Mike Clarke, North Kesteven District Council (NKDC).

Eight members of the public were also present.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Jane Kania, Cllr John Money, NKDC and Steve Altridge, Parish Clerk

1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were asked by the members of the public present.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

3 MINUTES – 13 SEPTEMBER, 2016

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 September, 2016 were taken as read and signed as correct.

4 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES – PART 1

(a) Local Police

No representative of the local police was present.

(b) Village Keeper/Dog Warden

The Parish Council noted the Village Keeper's report, which had been circulated previously, summarising his activities over the past month. Cllr Jones said that in the light of the decision to increase the postholder's hours, he would shortly be meeting with him to identify a range of tasks to be carried out to improve conditions, etc. within the village. He asked fellow councillors to let him have details of any issues which they felt should be addressed as part of that process.

(c) **Parish Clerk**

The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report, which had been circulated previously.

(d) **District Councillor Mike Clarke (Representing John Money)**

Cllr Clarke updated the Parish Council on recent developments in the District, including the current uncertain position regarding future government funding settlements.

(e) **County Councillor M. Overton**

Cllr Overton was not present at the meeting.

5 BUDGET MONITORING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Parish Council noted a summary of its financial position as at the end of September (Month 6). It was noted that expenditure was broadly as expected and there were no issues of concern.

6 BT PAYPHONE – THE GREEN, NOCTON

It was noted that BT had advised that it was intending to remove this payphone kiosk since it has had little use over a significant period of time. The Parish Council accepted that in these circumstances it would be difficult to justify its retention so agreed to make no comment on the proposal.

7 NOCTON YOUTH CLUB

The Parish Council was pleased to note that there had been a very encouraging attendance at the public meeting held recently to seek support for the continuation of the Youth Club. Six residents had attended and agreed to form a group to run and organise the Club without the need for a paid Youth Leader. Information would be circulated with the November and December editions of Nocton News with a view to re-starting the Club in the New Year.

The Parish Council agreed that it would be willing to meet the accommodation costs when the Club restarts and to renew the subscription to the Lincolnshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services at a cost of £17.00.

8 NOCTON VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT – NEXT STEPS

Cllr Williams updated the Parish Council on the current position regarding the efforts being made to obtain grant funding to support the costs of rebuilding the Village Hall. It was noted that the project was to be broken

down into its basic elements, e.g. planning approval, demolition, main building and internal fitments, etc, each of which would be the subject of separate applications.

The Parish Council noted, in particular, the efforts being made to secure a grant from the Armed Forces

It was hoped that details of the final costings would shortly be received from Simons enabling further to progress to be made.

9 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES**

(a) Dunston Quarry, B1188 Lincoln Road, Dunston

The Parish Council agreed to make no comment on the proposed extension of this quarry.

(b) Removal of Holly Tree – 10 Wellhead Lane, Nocton

The Parish Council agreed to make no comment on the proposed removal of the holly tree at this property.

(c) Former Tennis Court Land at rear of the Village Hall, Main Street, Nocton

The Parish Council noted with considerable anger and concern the decision of NKDC to grant outline planning approval for this development, despite the officers' recommendation to refuse.

In view of the serious implications this decision has for the Village Hall and the continuing precedent it sets for future "infill" development within Nocton, the Parish Council would be considering a range of possible responses in private session.

(d) Land at Main Road/Barff Road, Potterhanworth – Erection of 40 Dwellings, etc.

The Parish Council noted that this application had been refused by NKDC.

10 **PROGRESS REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Murray reported that there appeared to have been a good response so far to the public consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan and that the comments received had generally been supportive of the proposed policies, etc. She had also attended the recent meeting of Nocton Park Management Ltd at which there had been a further productive discussion

on ways in which there could be better working between that body and the Parish Council. The Chair or Vice-chair would be willing to attend further meetings of NPML to deal with specific issues.

Cllr Williams gave a brief update on the proceedings of the recent meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee. The Parish Council agreed to provide a bottle of champagne as raffle prizes at the “Bangers and Mash” evening on 5th November and the Xmas Fayre. It was noted the Village Planters had now been replanted and it was the intention to give each one a coat or preservative in the near future. Arrangements were now in hand to provide fencing at the remaining two entrances to the village similar to that provided in Wellhead Lane. The Chair undertook to contact Nocton School to see if it would be possible to engage the contractor it had appointed to remove the two trees from the front of the school to deal with the work which had been identified as being necessary to the trees on the Village Green.

Cllr Mike Kaye said that he would be attending the NKDC Planning Committee on 18 October to present the Parish Council’s objection to the application for a dwelling in Steamer Point Road.

Cllr Faulkner gave a brief update on the progress of the works taking place as part of the third phase of the Nocton Park housing development by Peter Sowerby.

Cllr Jones reminded the Parish Council that he would be attending the Community Policing Panel in Nocton Village Hall to which all residents were invited.

11 **NOCTON PARISH COUNCIL – DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- (a) The Parish Council noted that its next meeting would be held on 15 November, 2016.
- (b) The Parish Council agreed to adjourn to allow members of the public present to ask questions on matters relating to items discussed at the meeting. No questions were forthcoming.

12 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Parish Council agreed to pass a resolution under Standing Order 1(d), that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting, and they be instructed to withdraw.

If the press and public were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information of

the following description:

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

13 **FORMER TENNIS COURT ON LAND TO THE REAR OF THE VILLAGE HALL, MAIN STREET, NOCTON**

Further to Minute No. 9(c) above, the Parish Council considered a detailed report reviewing a range of actions in response to NKDC's recent decision to grant outline planning permission for a bungalow on the land to the rear of the Village Hall.

It was agreed that the following be pursued, including:

1. making a complaint against those members of the committee, including the Chair, who had reversed the officers' recommendation in clear breach of their Code of Conduct;
2. making a complaint against the Chief Executive for failing to ensure that the Planning Committee had access to appropriate legal and procedural advice;
3. making a series of requests under the Freedom of Information Act to Lincolnshire County Council to information on the extent to which it carried out a proper analysis of the site's access issues; and to NKDC for (a) information relating to voting patterns of committee members; (b) the training given to such members to ensure that they understood their role on that committee; and (c) the training given to those officers responsible for providing legal and procedural advice to the committee, specifically the Democratic Services Officer.
4. obtaining legal advice to clarify the position relating to the apparent conflict between the applicant's rights of access over the car park and the covenant which protects its use for the parking of vehicles by users of the Village Hall, etc.

Given the potential costs involved and the limited time available, the Parish Council reluctantly agreed not to pursue the seeking of a Judicial Review of the Planning Committee's decision.

CHAIR